

What is Claimed:

1 1. A method of enabling access to a data structure, said
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 designating e-mail addresses of users with respective sections of
4 the data structure; and

5 enabling access to the respective sections to users
6 corresponding to the designated e-mail addresses.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of designating
2 includes entering the e-mail address into respective linking sections of the
3 data structure, each of the linking sections being associated with a portion of
4 the sections of the data structure.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of designating
2 includes associating the e-mail addresses to the respective sections of the
3 data structure from another data structure.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 sending an e-mail to one of the users alerting the user of the
3 user's ability to access the sections of the data structure associated with the
4 user's e-mail address.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 creating, by one of the users, a password, to limit access to the
3 sections of the data structure associated with the one user's e-mail address
4 to the one user and other users having access rights to the sections of the
5 data structure associated with the one user's e-mail address.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 reassigning, by one of the users, access rights to at least a
3 portion of the sections of the data structure associated with the one user's
4 e-mail address to another user.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of enabling
2 includes enabling at least one of editing the respective sections by users
3 corresponding to the designated e-mail addresses, and viewing the respective
4 sections by users corresponding to the designated e-mail addresses.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of designating
2 includes designating e-mail addresses of users with respective data cells of a
3 spreadsheet included in the data structure.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of designating
2 includes selecting at least one section in the data structure and entering an
3 e-mail address into a linking section of the data structure to link the at least
4 one selected section with a user associated with the entered e-mail address,
5 and said step of enabling includes enabling access to the at least one selected
6 section to the user associated with the entered e-mail address.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting
2 included in said step of designating includes selecting the at least one section
3 as a data cell in a spreadsheet, and said step of enabling includes enabling
4 access to the data cell to the user associated with the entered e-mail
5 address.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said step of selecting
2 includes at least one of highlighting the data cell and clicking on the data cell.

1 12. A method of accessing a data structure, said method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving authorization, by a user, to access at least a portion of
4 a plurality of sections included in the data structure, the authorization being
5 provided by designating an e-mail address of the user with the portion of the
6 sections in the data structure; and

7 accessing the portion of the sections based on the received
8 authorization.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

2 receiving, by the user, an e-mail alerting the user of the user's
3 ability to access the portion of the sections.

1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

2 creating, by the user, a password, to limit access to the portion
3 of the sections of the data structure to the user and other users having
4 access rights to the portion of the sections of the data structure.

1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

2 reassigning, by the user, access rights to at least a portion of
3 the portion of sections to another user.

1 16. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of receiving
2 includes at least one of receiving authorization to edit the portion of the
3 sections, and receiving authorization to view the portion of the sections.

1 17. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of accessing
2 includes accessing the portion of the sections as data cells in a spreadsheet.

- 1 18. A computer readable carrier including computer program
2 instructions which cause a computer to implement a method of enabling
3 access to a data structure, said method comprising the steps of:
- 4 designating e-mail addresses of users with respective sections of
5 the data structure; and
- 6 enabling access to the respective sections to users
7 corresponding to the designated e-mail addresses.